

# Choral Vespers for the Feast of Ascension



**Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 5:00 PM**

**Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School**

9100 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## About Vespers (Evening Prayer)

Vespers is the evening prayer service in the liturgies of the canonical hours. The word comes from the Greek *εσπερινός* and its Latin equivalent *vesper*, meaning "evening." In Lutheranism the traditional form has varied widely with time and place. Martin Luther, in his German Mass and Order of Divine Service (1526) recommended reading the gospel in Latin in schools: "Then let another boy read the same chapter in German for practice, and in case any layman were there to hear...In the same way at Vespers, let them sing the Vesper Psalms as sung hitherto, in Latin, with an antiphon; then a hymn, as there is opportunity." While Latin vespers continued to be said in large churches, many experiments with simplified liturgies were made, including combining the hours of vespers and compline, later taken up in Thomas Cranmer's Anglican evensong. Under the influence of the 20th century Liturgical movement the Alpirsbach circle reintroduced Gregorian chant and spawned the Evangelisch-Lutherische Gebetsbruderschaft, established in 1954, which publishes the *Breviarium Lipsiensae* or Leipzig Breviary.

Many of Bach's cantatas were first heard in the context of vespers, which are still celebrated Friday evenings in Leipzig's Thomaskirche.

In the latter half of the twentieth century, in response to the liturgical innovations in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, some Lutheran hymnals, such as the 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship provide a modified form of Vespers in addition to or in place of the traditional form. Generally called Evening Prayer, it begins with a Service of Light in which a lighted candle is carried in procession to the altar while the *Phos Hilaron* is sung, and the Office Hymn is moved to a new place between the Psalmody and Reading, among other changes. - Wikipedia

## Prelude

Prélude from *Suite, op. 5*

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

## Welcome

*Please stand as able.*

### Opening



Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. **Alleluia, alleluia, al - le - luia!**



We are illumined by the brightness of his rising. **Alleluia, alleluia, al - le - luia!**



Death has no more dominion ov - er us. **Alleluia, alleluia, al - le - luia!**

## Hymn of Light

*Sung by the choir.*

Stay with us, Lord Jesus. Stay with us, it soon is evening, and night is falling.  
Jesus Christ, the world's true light! Shine so the darkness cannot over come it!  
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening.  
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, for night is falling.  
Let your light pierce the darkness and fill your church with its glory.

Text: Luke 24: 29, *Phos Hilaron*

Music: Egil Hovland (1924-2013)

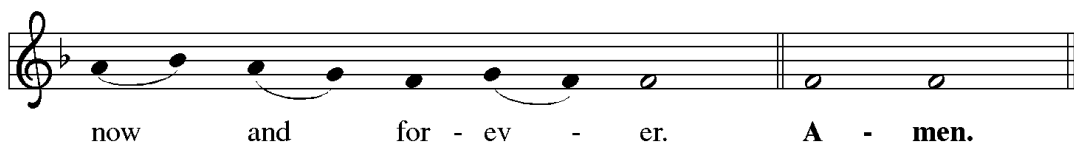
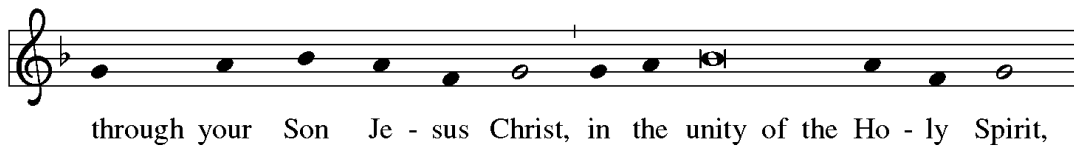
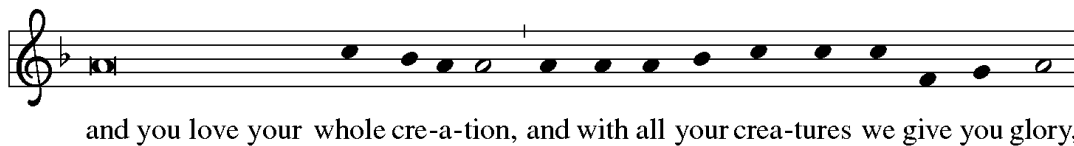
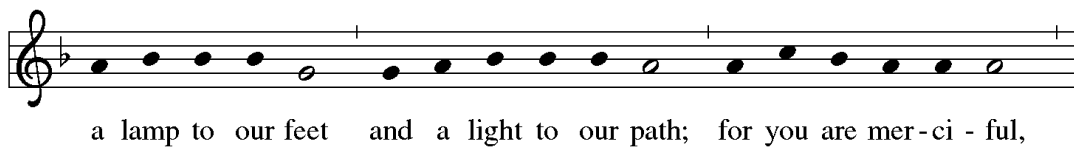
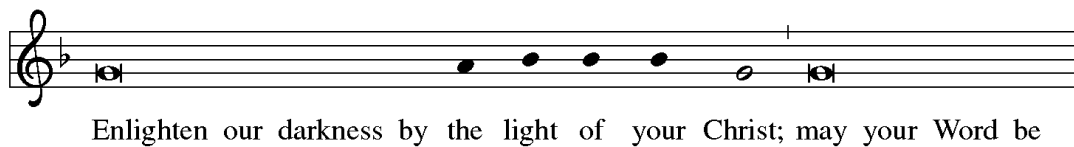
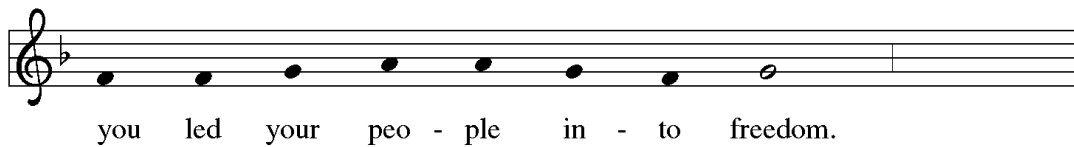
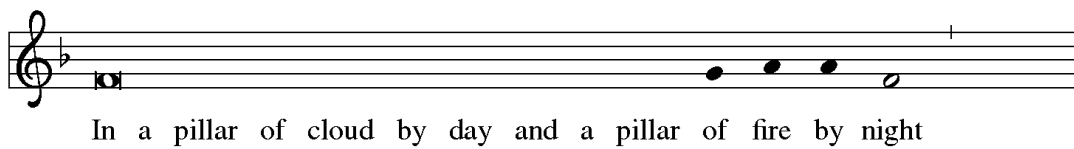
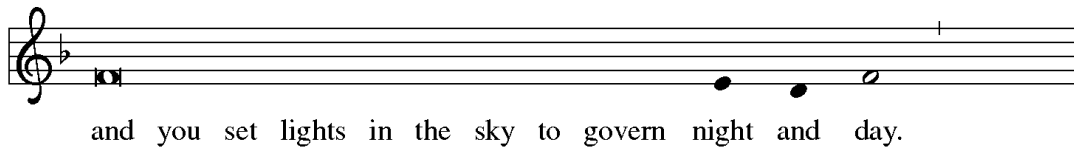
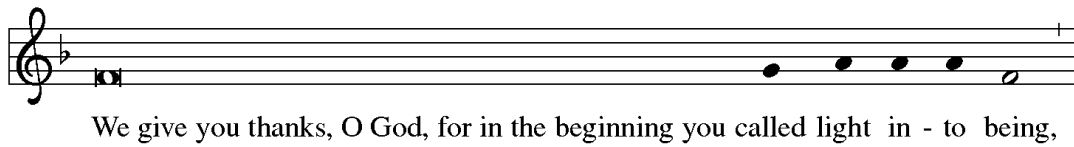
## Thanksgiving for Light



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



*Please be seated.*

**Psalm 47 : 1-2, 5-8**

setting by Peter Hallock

*The antiphon is sung first by the choir. Please sing the second time. The choir will sing the verses. Please sing the antiphon where indicated.*

**ANTIPHON**

Psalm 47: 5

Organ: Everyone:

God is gone up with a shout—

— the Lord with the sound of the ram's - horn. —

**Choir:** Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a cry of joy. For the LORD Most High is to be feared; he is the great King over all the earth.

**ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON**

**Choir:** God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

**ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON**

**Choir:** For God is King of all the earth; sing praises with all your skill. God reigns over the nations; God sits upon his holy throne.

**ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON**

*Please stand as able.*

# Hymn—ELW 564

*God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven*



1 God, who made the earth and heav-en, dark - ness and light:  
2 And when morn a - gain shall call us to run life's way,  
3 Guard us wak-ing, guard us sleep-ing, and, when we die,  
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, throned in heav-en, all - ho - ly Son,



you the day for work have giv - en, for rest the night.  
may we still, what - e'er be - fall us, your will o - bey.  
may we in your might - y keep-ing all peace - ful lie.  
Ho - ly Spir - it, free - ly giv - en, blest Three in One:



May your an - gel guards de - fend us, slum-ber sweet your mer - cy send us,  
From the pow'r of e - vil hide us, in the nar - row path - way guide us,  
When the last dread call shall wake us, then, O Lord, do not for - sake us,  
grant us grace, we now im - plore you, till we lay our crowns be - fore you



ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us all through the night.  
nev - er be your smile de - nied us all through the day.  
but to reign in glo - ry take us with you on high.  
and in wor - thier strains a - dore you while a - ges run.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, st. 1, alt.; William Mercer, 1811–1873, sts. 2, 4, alt.; Richard Whately, 1787–1863, st. 3, alt.  
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

*Please be seated.*

## Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

*The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

### Choral Anthem

*Lift Up*  
*Heads, O*

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors,  
and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors,  
and the King of glory shall come in.

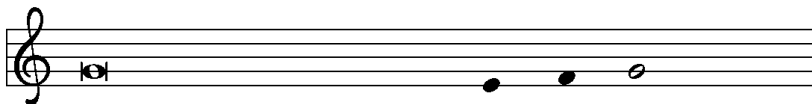
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.

*Y o u r*  
*Ye Gates*

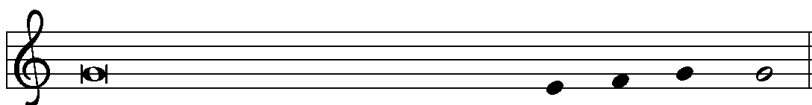
Text: Psalm 24: 7-10

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992)

*Please stand as able.*

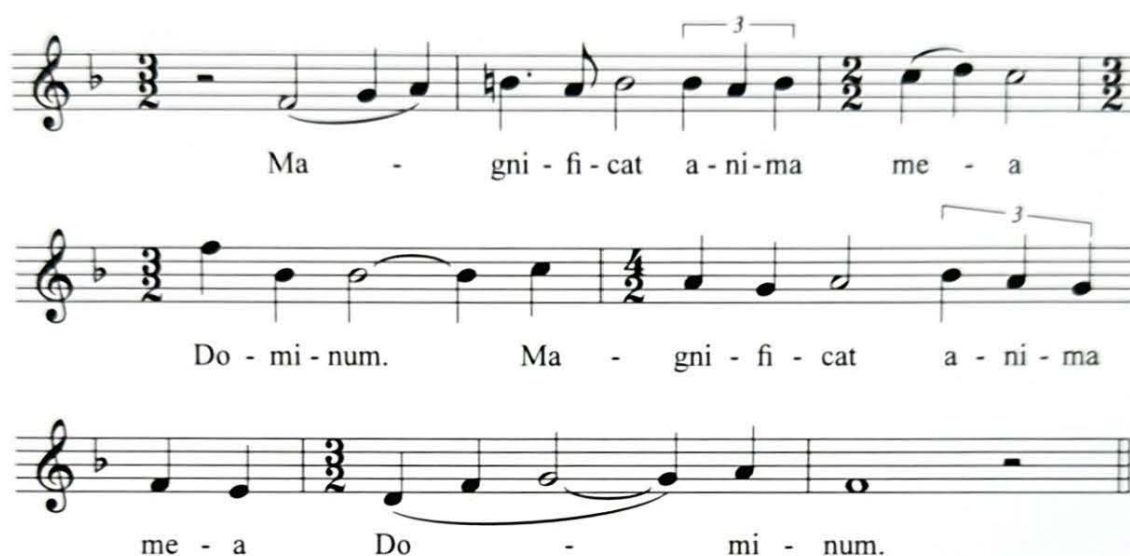


Jesus said, I am the light of the world.



**Whoever follows me will never walk in dark - ness.**

*The choir introduces the congregational refrain. Please sing the 2nd time through. Sing the refrain where indicated.*



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on your lowly servant.

**Refrain.**

From this day all generations will call me bless'd:  
the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

**Refrain.**

He has mercy on those who fear him  
In every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm,  
He has scattered the proud in their conceit,  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
And the rich he has sent away empty.

**Refrain.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
For he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he has made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

*Continues on the next page*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now and will be for -

ev - er. A -

men.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and consists of four staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains the lyrics 'as it was in the be -' with a triplet of eighth notes 'in the be' marked with a '3' and a bracket. The second staff continues the melody with 'gin - ning, is now and will be for -'. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat, with the lyrics 'ev - er. A -'. It features a triplet of eighth notes 'ev - er' and a long note 'A' with a slur. The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat, with the lyrics 'men.' and a long note with a slur.

*Please be seated.*

## The Prayers

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical score for 'The Prayers' consists of three staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat, with the lyrics 'In peace, let us pray to the Lord.' The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat, with the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' The third staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat, with the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' The music is simple and homophonic, with long notes and rests.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share,  
and for peaceful times, let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us;  
for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection  
in this and every place, let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering,  
and for those who are in captivity, let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need,  
let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

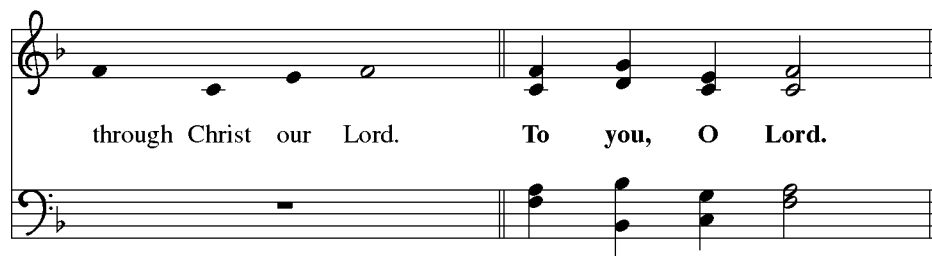
For all servants of the church, for this assembly,  
and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy,  
let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*A time of silence follows.*

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we  
commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you,



O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

**Amen.**



Gathered into one by the Ho-ly Spir - it, let us pray as Je-sus taught us.



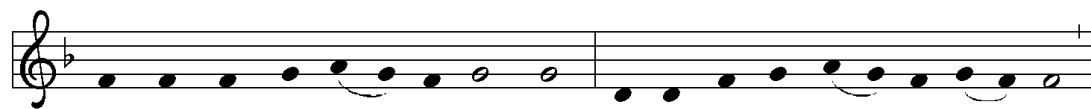
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



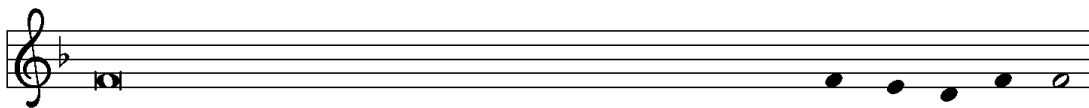
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*Please stand as able.*

## Blessing



Almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve us.



A - men.

## Hymn—ELW 394

*Hail thee, festival day!*



Hail thee, fes - ti-val day! Blest day to be hal-lowed for - ev - er;



day when our Lord was raised, break-ing the king - dom of death.

*Continues on the next page*

Verses 1, 3, and 5



1 He who was nailed to the cross is rul - er and Lord of all  
 3 God the Al - might - y, the Lord, the rul - er of earth and the  
 5 Spir - it of life and of pow'r, now flow in us, fount of our



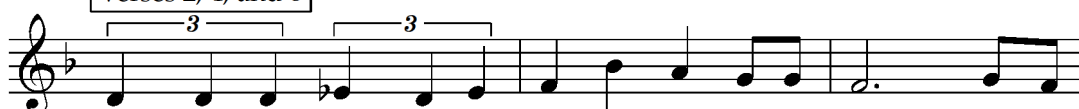
peo - ple. All things cre - at - ed on earth\_  
 heav - ens, guard us from harm with - out;\_  
 be - ing, light that en - light - ens us all, \_

*Refrain*



sing to the glo - ry of God:  
 cleanse us from e - vil with - in:  
 life that in all may a - bide:

Verses 2, 4, and 6



2 Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the au - thor of life and cre -  
 4 Je - sus, the health of the world, en - light - en our minds, great re -  
 6 Praise to the giv - er of good! O Lov - er and Au - thor of



a - tion. Tread - ing the path - way of  
 deem - er, Son of the Fa - ther su -  
 con - cord, pour out your balm on our

*Refrain*



death, new life you give to us all: \_\_\_\_\_  
 preme, on - ly - be - got - ten of God: \_\_\_\_\_  
 days; or - der our ways in your peace: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please be seated.*

**Recessional**

Final variation from *Veni Creator* Op.4

Maurice Duruflé



**Officiants**

The Rev. Connie A. Miller  
The Rev. Franklin Morales

**Director of Music**

Dr. Alain Truche

**Choir**

Schola Cantorum

**Organist**

Grace Oh

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